OCT 1 4 2003 TC 1700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of

ESCH ET AL.

Group Art Unit: 1754

Application Serial No.: 08/870,591

Examiner: HENDRICKSON, S.L.

Filed: June 6, 1997

Title: PRECIPITATED SILICA

October 7, 2003

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.96, 1.97, and 1.98, the applicants request consideration of the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. As these documents are U.S. patents, copies of the cited documents are not enclosed.

The applicants do not waive any rights to appropriate action to establish patentability over the listed documents should they be applied as references against the claims of the present application. This statement should not be construed as a representation that more material information does not exist or that an exhaustive search of the relevant art has been made.

This Information Disclosure Statement is intended to be fully compliant with 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.96, and 1.97. However, should the examiner find any part of its required content to have been omitted, the applicants earnestly solicit prompt notice to that effect, along with additional time under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(f) to enable the applicants to comply fully.

The applicants respectfully request consideration of the cited documents and making the same of record in the prosecution of the above-identified application.

' Inventor(s): ESCH et al. Application No.: 08/870,591

Attorney Docket No.: 021123-0238397

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed along with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Therefore the applicants believe that no fee is due.

Respectfully submitted,
PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

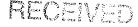
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PTO/SB/08a (05-03) Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031

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der the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number. Complete if Known Substitute for form 1449A/PTO Application Number 08/870,591 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE Filing Date 06/06/1997 First Named Inventor STATEMENT BY APPLICANT **HEINZ ESCH** Art Unit 1754 Examiner Name Hendrickson, S.L (Use as many sheets as necessary Sheet Attorney Docket Number 021123-0238397

			U. S. PATENT	DOCUMENTS	
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ^{2 (ffknown)}	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	^{US-} 5,256,196	October 26, 1993	Chjonowski et al.	
	_ 2	US- 5,484,581	January 16, 1996	Esch et al.	·
	3	⁰⁸⁻ 5,705,137	January 6, 1998	Goerl et al.	<u> </u>
	4	^{US-} 5,846,506	December 8, 1998		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
<u></u> .	5	US- 5,859,117	January 12, 1999	Goerl et al.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	6	US- 5,871,867	February 16, 1999		
	7	^{08.} 5,925,708	July 20, 1999	Esch et al.	
	8	US- 6,180,076	January 30, 2001	Uhrlandt et al.	
	9	US- 6,214,383	April 10, 2001	Esch et al.	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS									
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Т6			
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Examiner			
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.

Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3).

For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible.

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any USP method. on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.